

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY  
MAYOR



CITY HALL  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302  
TEL: (201) 547-5200  
FAX: (201) 547-4288

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Jennifer Morrill  
Press Secretary  
**201-547-4836**  
**201-369-0699**

## ***Jersey City to Host 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Arts Festival 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Liberty State Park Founder Morris Pesin's Historic Canoe Ride to be Celebrated***

**JERSEY CITY** – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council and the Division of Cultural Affairs will kick off the city's summer cultural calendar with the **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Arts Festival** which will be held on **Sunday, June 8, 2008 from 1 to 7 p.m. in the Central Railroad Terminal at Liberty State Park.**

The event, which features dozens of local artists and artisans, ethnic fare, live entertainment and children's activities, also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic canoe ride to Liberty Island made by Morris Pesin.

Morris Pesin, known as the "father" of Liberty State Park, spent 18 years spearheading the crusade to create an urban state park, which is now Liberty State Park.

"This year's Cultural Arts Festival is especially important because not only does it showcase our rich diversity and our thriving arts scene, but this year we are also celebrating the historic event that gave Jersey City one of its most treasured jewels – Liberty State Park," **Mayor Healy** said. "It is important we remember the efforts that Morris Pesin made and the battles he fought to ensure open public space for the generations that followed."

A variety of visual artists and craftmakers will display their work, including photography by Mike McNamara and Duane Winfield, painting by Gregory Charles and Stephanie Riggi, printmaking by Virna Vargas, and sculpture by George Critelli.

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Musical performances at this year's Cultural Arts Festival will include Jersey City's own Barbara Sharpe; John Christian, a Jersey City favorite; Con Vivo Chamber Music, for the mellow at heart; Sabor Tropical, a great Latin band; and a new addition to the Cultural Arts family, Laura Lea & Tripp Fabulous. DJ Omar, also from Jersey City, will also be on hand to perform a great mixture of DJ music.

Attendees to this year's Cultural Arts Festival can also expect a taste of different ethnic foods such as Indian, Greek, soul food, Italian, Spanish and a variety of pastries.

There will also be a number of activities, including art and eco-friendly activities, for children. Marco Beria will conduct an activity in which participants construct arts and crafts based on ecological themes using recyclable items. The arts and crafts include creating mobiles, bird houses, and musical instruments.

Local visual artist Duda Penteado will also provide a Children's Art Tent entitled the "Faces of Jersey City," in which children will be invited to participate and create their own masterpiece to take home.

A clown will perform magic acts that involve audience participation, and a storyteller will perform a puppet show. Four different cartoon characters (Mickey & Minnie Mouse, Dora the Explorer and Blue's Clues) will entertain children. Caricature artists will also be on hand to create paintings for the young and young-at-heart.

**For more information about the Cultural Arts Festival, please call the Division of Cultural Affairs at 201-547-6921.**

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.**

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